

**REMARKS**

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 12, 21, 22, and 24, to more particularly claim the inventive subject matter. Claims 3 and 7 have been cancelled without prejudice to the Applicant.

In view of the Amendments to the claims, and the clarifications set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of the claims as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) by Wilhoit (3,654, 648), and further under 35 U.S.C. Section 103 (a) as being obvious in view of Wilhoit, and Wilhoit in view of Tezuka (5,577,856).

Applicant's invention is centered around a clever mechanical design for an accessory mounting system for marine vessels. The track extrusion actually comprises the side-wall gunwale or gunnel of the boat, as seen in Figures 1 and 3 of the drawings. The accessory mounting platform can be moved about numerous locations for the boater or fisherman to simultaneously secure a variety of equipment such as fish-finders, fishing rod holders, GPS and Cell phones, antennas, and the like. The accessory mounting system has incorporated unique angular designs such that the mounting plate is substantially vertical (parallel to the boat side walls), to facilitate supporting the accessory in proper orientation for use.

Attached hereto as Exhibit A, is a two (2) page brochure of the Applicant, which illustrates the variety of accessory equipment, and its components and method of use in

a boat. Attached hereto as Exhibit B, is five (5) pages of photograph copies illustrating the component details and manner of attaching the system to the novel gunwale track.

These Exhibits complement and supplement the patent drawings, and further depict the salient features of the invention.

Applicant has amended certain independent claims to recite the generally symmetrical and complementary mating components of the slide connector and accessory mounting platform.

The Wilhoit '648 does not appear to be directly relevant to applicants invention, as it discloses a Windshield for attachment to a boat hood. The track assemblies 26A and 26B as shown in Figures 2 & 4 are permanently bolted to the boat hood by bolts 33 & 34. The Windshield is then slid in the track and then permanently secured to the boat in conventional fashion. There is no disclosure of any kind in Wilhoit of an accessory mounting system such as Applicants. Nor does Wilhoit include, teach or suggest Applicant's symmetrical slide connector, complementary shapes for the track and accessory mounting plate as reflected in the claims of record, and as illustrated in the drawings, and particularly the cross-section shown in Figure 3. Wilhoit also does not disclose any structure for slidably positioning and re-positioning a variety of accessories in numerous track locations about the boat at any location, nor about the gunwale.

As Wilhoit was not concerned with problems addressed by the Applicant's accessory mounting system, this reference cannot teach Applicant's solutions, or the structure recited in the claims.

The Tezuka '856 reference also does not appear to be relevant art, as it is entitled Beam Support System for Forming Precompressed Wood Joints. This reference is not compatible with the Wilhoit Windshield system for a boat hood. One of skill in the art would not seek to combine the respective teachings as they are extremely remote from one another, and the designs are incompatible.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's favorable action. The independent claims of record as amended define over the prior art, and contain allowable subject matter. The dependent claims contain further allowable subject matter, and features which are not disclosed or suggested in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance.

Applicant has submitted concurrently herewith, a three (3) month Extension of Time Request and fee.

Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or comments, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call to possibly expedite this case.

In re application of: PAUL DAVID ZARN  
Serial No.: 10/674,916  
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If there are any additional charges, including extension of time, please bill our  
Deposit Account No. 13-1130.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dale Paul DiMaggio, Reg. No. 31,823  
MALIN, HALEY & DIMAGGIO, P.A.  
1936 South Andrews Ave.  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33316  
Tel: (954) 763-3303 / (954) 522-6507 Fax  
E-Mail: INFO@mhdpatents.com